

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on November 7, 2003, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwer in view of Wozychik; claims 6, 10-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwer in view of Daskalakis; claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Pope; claims 18, 19 and 25-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Pope and further in view of Daskalakis; claims 17 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dell in view of Pope and Voiz; claims 8 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwer in view of Daskalakis and Dell; claims 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Villemont; claim 41 was rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Villemont in view of Daskalakis; claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base but allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 31-38 were allowed. Claim 31 has been amended to remove one of the periods erroneously appearing at the end of this claim; and claims 39 and 40 have been amended to replace "films" with "fins" to correct typographical errors in these claims. Because these amendments are directed to correcting typographical errors, entry of these claim amendments is requested. The § 103 rejections are discussed below.

Rejections of Claims 1-5:

The Examiner maintains the § 103(a) rejection of independent claim 1 in view of the combination of Harwer and Wozychik. As previously pointed out, the combination of Harwer and Wozychik fails to teach all claim limitations. The Examiner contends that Wozychik teaches the uniformly spaced contacts of claim 1. However, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Wozychik teaches that several of the connectors 152 may be dedicated for power leads. More specifically, Wozychik states, "more particularly, several connectors (as many as 30-40 in certain applications) of connectors 152 and 160 can be dedicated for power leads." Wozychik, 8:5-7. In the cited text, the number of connectors, of course, does not correspond to Figure 8, as Figure 8 of Wozychik merely illustrates four connectors 152 and several connectors 160 that do not constitute connectors in the range of 30-40. Thus, as an illustration, Wozychik teaches that several of these connectors may be dedicated for power. However, such a disclosure does not teach or even suggest uniformly spaced contacts to

communicate power. For example, although some of the contacts 152 may be dedicated to communicate power, there is no teaching or suggestion in Woychik that these contacts to communicate power are adjacent to each other and are uniformly spaced. Thus, for at least the reason that the combination of Woychik and Harwer fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for independent claim 1.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for independent claim 1 for at least the additional, independent reason that the Examiner's modification to Harwer to derive the claimed invention would change the principal of operation of the circuit board shown in Harwer. In this manner, Harwer's circuit board includes contacts 44 for insertion into an ISA bus connector. See, for example, Harwer 4:5-10. It is these contacts 44 that are modified in view of Woychik to allegedly to derive the § 103 rejection of claim 1. Thus, the proposed modification to Harwer would replace the ISA bus connector with uniformly spaced power connectors. However, such a modification would destroy the principal of operation of Harwer's circuit board (i.e., would make the contacts 44 incompatible with an ISA bus connector), thereby making the modification improper. See M.P.E.P. § 2145.X.D. Thus, for at least this additional, independent reason, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established for independent claim 1.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 1 for at least the additional, independent reason that the Examiner fails to show where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine Harwer and Woychik. As set forth above, the modification destroys the principal of operation of Harwer's circuit board, thereby supporting the proposition that there is no motivation or suggestion to combine these two references. Furthermore, the Examiner must show, with specific citations to a prior art reference, where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation for the combination and/or modification of references. The Examiner has failed to satisfy this requirement, and for at least this additional, independent reason, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 1.

Claims 2-5 are patentable for at least the reasons that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 6 and 8:

Independent claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwer in view of Daskalakis. The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 6 for at least the reason that the Examiner fails to show where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine Daskalakis and Harwer. The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 6 for the additional, independent reason that even assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of Daskalakis and Harwer is proper, the combination fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations.

More specifically, the Examiner relies on Daskalakis to allegedly teach an edge profile that is engaged by a connector housing assembly *inside* the slot connector housing assembly. However, referring to Daskalakis, Daskalakis teaches that the locking finger 12 fits into a slot created between the main body of the printed circuit board 50 and a card arm 51. *See*, Daskalakis, 4:43-45. However, this slot is not a slot inside a slot connector housing. More specifically, the slot referred to in the above-cited language is not a slot inside the connector 61. Thus, for at least this reason, Daskalakis fails to teach the missing claim limitations. Furthermore, the locking finger 12 does not constitute a profile of a substrate that supports circuitry. Therefore, for at least this additional reason, the combination of Daskalakis and Harwer fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations.

Thus, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of independent claim 6 is requested. Claim 8 is patentable for at least the reason that this claim depends from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 11-14:

The method of independent claim 11 includes forming an edge profile in a substrate to engage a slot connector housing assembly *inside* the slot connector housing assembly. (emphasis added).

As set forth above in the discussion of claim 6, neither Daskalakis nor Harwer teaches or suggests an edge profile that engages a slot connector housing assembly inside a slot connector housing assembly. The Examiner relies on Daskalakis for this teaching. However, as set forth above, Daskalakis merely teaches that the locking finger 12 is positioned inside a slot created between a main body of the printed circuit card 50 and a card arm 51. This slot is

not, however, part of or inside of the connector 61. Thus, Daskalakis fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 11 for the at least the additional, independent reason that the Examiner fails to show where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation to combine Daskalakis and Harwer.

Thus, withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of independent claim 11 is requested. Claims 12-14 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 15-17:

As pointed out in previous replies, the Examiner's rejection of claim 15 under § 103 is clearly improper. As all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. M.P.E.P. § 2143.03; *In re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (CCPA 1970) (stating "all words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art"). Claims 16-20 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 21-24:

As pointed out in the previous replies, the Examiner combines Volz, Pope and Dell without showing where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation for this combination. Without such a showing, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 21.

Claims 22-24 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 25-27:

The slot connector of claim 25 includes a retention mechanism to engage an edge profile of a circuit board inside a slot that receives a circuit board.

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 25 for at least the reason that even assuming, *arguendo*, that the combination of references is proper, the combination fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations. More specifically, the Examiner relies on Daskalakis to allegedly teach a retention mechanism to

engage an edge profile of a circuit board inside a slot that receives a circuit board. However, as set forth above, Daskalakis fails to teach or suggest such limitation, as the finger 12 of Daskalakis is not engaged inside a slot that receives a circuit board. Furthermore, Daskalakis does not teach an edge profile that is engaged by a retention mechanism, as the finger 61 does not constitute an edge profile of the printed circuit card 50. Thus, for at least the reason that the combination of references fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations, a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for independent claim 25.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been set forth for independent claim 25 for at least the additional, independent reason that the Examiner fails to show where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation for the combination of references to derive the claimed invention.

Claims 26 and 27 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable claim.

Rejections of Claims 28-30:

The method of claim 28 includes attaching a retention mechanism to a housing to engage an edge profile of a circuit board inside a slot that receives the circuit board. For at least the reasons set forth above in the discussion of claim 25, the combination of references set forth in the § 103 rejection of claim 28 fails to teach or suggest all claim limitations, mainly, attaching a retention mechanism to a housing to engage an edge profile of a circuit board that is inside a slot that receives the circuit board. Furthermore, the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for independent claim 28, because the Examiner fails to specifically show where the prior art contains the alleged suggestion or motivation for the combination of references.

Claims 29 and 30 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from allowable claim.

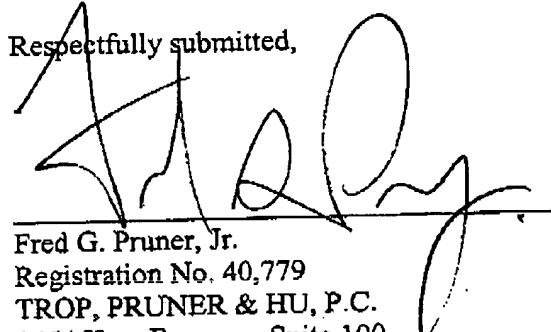
Rejections of Claims 39-41:

Claims 39 and 41 have been amended to replace "films" with "fins," thereby correcting a typographical error in these claims. Villemont fails to teach or suggest fins that are thermally coupled to a housing that forms a slot to receive the circuit board, where these

fins conduct heat away from the circuitry of the circuit board. It is noted that claims 39-41 are patentable in view of the combination of Dell, Pope and Volz for at least the reasons set forth above in the discussion of independent claim 21.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the remaining § 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0519US).

Respectfully submitted,

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